

Three Scriptural Images of the Church

Respond to each of the items for each of the three scriptural images of the Church. Be prepared to discuss them with the class.

People of God

What does this image suggest to you about the nature of the Church?

Give at least three examples of current events or local situations in which a particular group has claimed the right to be separate or elitist in its way of life.

How do the attitudes of these groups compare or contrast with the notion of the People of God?

To what degree do you think the Church, this school, or the community in which you live measures up to this image? Explain.

Body of Christ

What does this image or symbol suggest to you about the nature of the Church?

Saint Paul used the image of the Body of Christ to show unity amid diversity in the Church, much as a human's body parts are all different but work together as one. How might this image of a body apply to social and cultural diversity? Add any other areas of diversity you believe should be included.

If Saint Paul's image of the Church as a body were fully applied, how would the Church, this school, or the community in which you live be the same or different?



Temple of the Holy Spirit

What does this image or symbol suggest to you about the nature of the Church?

If the Holy Spirit dwells within the Church and within each believer, how should charisms (gifts and talents) be used?

Are the gifts and talents of the Church, this school, and the community in which you live used in a manner that makes the Church visible as the Temple of the Holy Spirit?

Right now, which of your relationships—family, friends, teachers, and so on—reflect the image and holiness of God? Which do not? What can you do to improve your relationships with other people?

Name at least one way each of these three symbols or images has helped you understand the Church.

